

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for controlling a conference call of a
2 plurality of communication terminals, comprising the steps of:
3 displaying on a first one of the plurality of
4 communication terminals an identity of a second one of the
5 plurality of communication terminals in response to a first signal
6 from the first one of the plurality of communication terminals;
7 disabling audio information received from the second
8 one of the plurality of communication terminals on the
9 conference call in response to a second signal from the first
10 one of the plurality of communication terminals; and
11 enabling the audio information from the second one of
12 the plurality of communication terminals received from the
13 second one of the plurality of communication terminals on the
14 conference call in response to a third signal from the second
15 one of the plurality of communication terminals.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of
2 disabling comprises the step of re-enabling the second one of
3 the plurality of communication terminals on the conference call
4 in response to another second signal from the first one of the
5 plurality of communication terminals while the identity of the
6 second one of the plurality of communication terminals is
7 displayed on the first one of the plurality of communication
8 terminals.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of
2 displaying on the first one of the plurality of communication
3 terminals comprises the step of displaying a third one of the
4 plurality of communication terminals in response to another first
5 signal from the one of the plurality of communication terminals.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of
2 disabling comprises the step of disabling audio information
3 received from the third one of the plurality of communication
4 terminals on the conference call in response to another second
5 signal from the first one of the plurality of communication
6 terminals while the identity of third one of the plurality of
7 communication terminals is displayed on the first one of the
8 plurality of communication terminals.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of enabling
2 comprises re-enable the audio information from the third one of
3 the plurality of communication terminals received from the
4 second one of the plurality of communication terminals on the
5 conference call in response to another third signal from the third
6 one of the plurality of communication terminals.

1 6. A system for controlling a conference call
2 comprising:
3 a telecommunication switching system;
4 a conference circuit;

5 a plurality of communication terminals communicating
6 with each other via the conference circuit;

7 the telecommunication switching system responsive to
8 a first actuation of a first button on a first one of the plurality of
9 communication terminals for displaying an identity of a second
10 one of the plurality of communication terminals on a display of
11 the first one of the plurality of communication terminals;

12 the telecommunication switching system further
13 responsive to first actuation of a second button on the first one
14 of the plurality of communication terminals for transmitting a
15 first signal to the conference circuit;

16 the conference circuit responsive to the first signal for
17 inhibiting audio information from the second one of the plurality
18 of communication terminals that is displayed on the display of
19 the first one of the plurality of communication terminals from
20 being communicated to the other ones of the plurality of
21 communication terminals;

22 the telecommunication switching system further
23 responsive to a second signal from the second one of the
24 plurality of communication terminals for transmitting a third
25 signal to the conference circuit; and

26 the conference circuit responsive to the third signal for
27 allowing audio information from the second one of the plurality
28 of communication terminals to be communicated to the other
29 ones of the plurality of communication terminals.

1 7. The system of claim 6 wherein in
2 telecommunication switching system further responsive to
3 another actuation of the second button on the first one of the
4 plurality of communication terminals while the identity of the
5 second one of the plurality of communication terminals is
6 displayed on the display of the first one of the plurality of
7 communication terminals for transmitting another third signal to
8 the conference circuit; and

9 the conference circuit responsive to the other third
10 signal for allowing audio information from the second one of the
11 plurality of communication terminals to be communicated to the
12 other ones of the plurality of communication terminals.

1 8. The system of claim 6 wherein the
2 telecommunication switching system further responsive to a
3 second actuation of the first button on the first one of the
4 plurality of communication terminals for displaying an identity of
5 a third one of the plurality of communication terminals on a
6 display of the first one of the plurality of communication
7 terminals.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 telecommunication switching system further responsive to a
3 second actuation of the second button on the first one of the
4 plurality of communication terminals for transmitting another
5 first signal to the conference circuit; and

6 the conference circuit responsive to the other first
7 signal for inhibiting audio information from the third one of the
8 plurality of communication terminals that is displayed on the
9 display of the first one of the plurality of communication
10 terminals from being communicated to the other ones of the
11 plurality of communication terminals.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the
2 telecommunication switching system further responsive to a
3 third actuation of the second button on the first one of the
4 plurality of communication terminals while the identity of the
5 third one of the plurality of communication terminals is
6 displayed on the display of the first one of the plurality of
7 communication terminals for transmitting another third signal to
8 the conference circuit; and

9 the conference circuit responsive to the other third
10 signal for allowing audio information from the third one of the
11 plurality of communication terminals to be communicated to the
12 other ones of the plurality of communication terminals.